

KAEC NOTES

Winter 2003

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Stirring up something good in Breckinridge County

By Byron Brewer, KDA

The agricultural bounties of Breckinridge County became the dinner menu for parents and special guests of Hardinsburg Elementary School in October as the Kountry Kidz Kitchen went into business. The student-run “restaurant” was the end result of a summer workshop held by Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom (KAEC).



KAEC is a nonprofit organization administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. It promotes the understanding and appreciation of agriculture while also emphasizing the importance of the environment to agricultural production. Its mission is to integrate agriculture and the environment as a theme to be utilized in classrooms across the Commonwealth.

“This is a great example of how agriculture and the environment can be used to teach a diverse curriculum,” said Rayetta Boone, director of KDA’s Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education. “Teachers who have worked with KAEC take these materials and incorporate them across the board in their classes. The students who ran this restaurant discovered the worlds of finance, business, career and math, but they also found out what agricultural products are grown in their own county, how those crops become viable products through processing, and how you sell those goods.”

“We studied a restaurant as a business, its relationship to agriculture and to a community,” said teacher Dana Carman, who with teacher Charmaine Henning attended a KAEC workshop in Elizabethtown in July. “We divided all the job opportunities the students could possibly have in a restaurant. From host and hostess to waiters and waitresses, cooks ... I was the manager. The kids all took their jobs very seriously.”

Special restaurant dinners were planned for Oct. 13-17. The event was advertised on the radio and in the local newspaper, and



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Kentucky's Youth Environmental Summit

March 21-22, 2004
Galt House, Louisville,
Kentucky

Why a summit? March 21-22, 2004 marks the second annual opportunity for Kentucky's high school students to learn how their communities grow and how an informed citizen's participation in community planning can foster economic development, promote a sense of community and insure a clean and healthy environment.

What will be addressed? This year's topic is Transportation, Growth and the Environment. Within that topic, the conference will address these issues:

- Transportation and land use
- Transportation and human health including cardiovascular health
- Transportation and environmental quality (water, air, wildlife)
- Transportation and historic properties

How will teachers and students prepare for the conference? Free curricula and training will be available to teachers who wish to prepare students for the summit. Training sessions will be held in early November at the convenience of the teachers or sponsors. Plans are to cover all the costs of student/teacher participation at the conference. Teachers and students will use the curriculum to study their own communities before attending the summit. Activities and concepts in the curriculum address many of the standards and goals of Kentucky high schools such as fostering inquiry based learning and using appropriate technology.

What will happen at the conference? Students will moderate all sessions at the conference; make presentations about Transportation, Growth and the Environment in their own communities; present their visions for the communities in which they live; and lead

small discussion groups. Students will also have opportunities for in-depth site visits to places related to Transportation, Growth and the Environment.

For more information, contact The Kentucky Environmental Education Council at 800-882-5271.

Poisonous or not?



Are poinsettias poisonous? If you said yes, you're mistaken, but you're not alone. It is a long-held myth that the poinsettia is a deadly plant, but it's not true. The sap may cause a mild skin rash in some people and may cause a tummy ache in children and/or pets IF they can choke down an extremely bitter leaf.

BUT the holly plant is toxic. The leaves are sharp and it's doubtful that anyone would chew on them, but the berries look "good enough to eat" but don't, they're poisonous.

Also, the berries on mistletoe are dangerous and should be kept out of reach, especially for young children. If you have a case of suspected poisoning, call (800) 222-1222. This number works nationwide and



connects you to a local poison control center.

Nearly 66 million poinsettias were sold in the United States last year. In 2002 there were 26 poinsettia producers in

Kentucky. Is the poinsettia industry a part of agriculture? You bet it is!

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students invited special community guests to attend. Parent involvement during the project was at “an all-time high,” Carman said. Parents brought in food, helped prepare it in the classroom, ran to the grocery and delivered meals. In addition to the meals provided in the classroom, students also prepared carryout and to-go orders.

During the dinners, students provided entertainment in the form of a square dance and a play, “Bringing Back America’s Small Farms.”

At the close of the week, the students had raised \$2,500 – \$1,700 after expenses. The money will be used to pay for each child’s way on a year-end field trip to the Newport Aquarium.

Carman’s primary (grades 2 and 3) class began its studies in August by discussing various aspects of a



community, including agricultural products produced in Breckinridge County. The students then advertised on local radio for produce that anyone was willing to donate for their project.

“It was perfect timing because it was right at harvest time,” Carman said. “We ended up collecting corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, green beans and apples.”

Food processing was the next lesson as, on different days, students shucked corn, snapped beans, cooked tomatoes and peeled apples. The foods also were incorporated into one of the classroom’s learning centers. For example, Carman would bring in the cooked apples and the students would grind them through a food mill, add cinnamon and sugar, and

then put the sauce into jars. By the time the students were finished with the food preparation leg of the lesson, they had applesauce, baked apples, bread-and-butter pickles, dill pickles, creamed corn, corn-on-the-cob, tomato juice, green beans and squash.

The next stop for the processed foods: Kountry Kidz Kitchen.

“The summer workshop put on by KAEC was wonderful,” Carman said. “It was one of the best teacher trainings I’d been through, and I have been through numerous training sessions. There were many great presentations and there was something I found useful that I could apply to my own classroom from each and every one. I found this to be perfect since Breckinridge County is such a rural farming area. Charmaine and I left the workshop with so many new ideas and materials that I decided not to search for more teaching materials. I had everything I needed.”

“Classes like those in Hardinsburg Elementary are the reason our division organizes teacher training and works to entice instructors into attending our workshops,” Boone said. “The resource materials – such as the Project Food, Land and People lessons – can be utilized as a teaching tool to make the connections about agriculture and our environment.”

Have an Ag in the Classroom story?

If you have a story about how you use Project Food, Land & People lessons in your classroom, we’d love to hear about it. It could be a great inspiration to other teachers to see how you conduct a particular activity and they might try it themselves. You don’t have to go the extreme that Ms. Carman and Ms. Henning did in their story but every little success can turn into a great big success when it comes to teaching our children about agriculture in the classroom. Call or e-mail your story and we’ll take care of writing the story and even taking pictures. Your story might be included in this newsletter, our department quarterly newspaper *Kentucky Agriculture News*, and on our Web site. We’d love to hear from you!

Web relaunch makes holiday shoppers KY.



Proud

This year, holiday shoppers can go to www.kyfresh.com for the best Kentucky-processed foods and manufactured products to put

under the tree. They can even buy the tree.

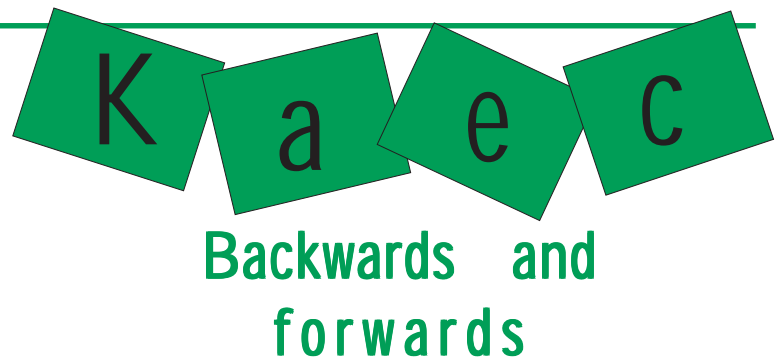
The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has relaunched its Kentucky Fresh/Kentucky Proud Web site with an emphasis on gifts for the holidays. The site provides a database of more than 400 participating businesses that offer Kentucky-made merchandise. Consumers can get information about a Kentucky product and find a location near their homes that sells the product.

"It's easier than ever to buy gifts and at the same time support Kentucky businesses," said Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith. "From jams and jellies, candles and candies to wreathes, garlands, fine wood products and even trees, there is an endless array of high-quality, Kentucky-made gifts that can be found through the redesigned Web site."

The site enables consumers to sort entries by company and search specific areas for businesses that offer Kentucky products. It features news stories and photos of producers who are part of the Kentucky Fresh/Kentucky Proud program. There are also instructions telling producers and companies how to become involved in this KDA promotional campaign.

The Kentucky Fresh logo was unveiled in July 2002 after a consumer advisory committee surveyed Kentucky consumers and found that freshness was the leading factor in their food-buying decisions. Kentucky Proud was developed to include processed foods and non-food items such as woodcrafts and nursery plants.

For more information, log onto www.kyfresh.com.



Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom (KAEC) is a nonprofit organization promoting the understanding and appreciation of the system that provides us with the food we eat. KAEC also emphasizes the importance of the environment to our agricultural production. Our mission is to integrate agriculture and the environment as a "theme" to be utilized in classrooms across the Commonwealth.

KAEC has been so successful that we felt a quick review of the program was needed to bring everyone up-to-speed on where we've been and a heads-up on where we're going.

- As of December 5, 2003, KAEC has sponsored 133 educational workshops reaching 3,424 teachers, student teachers and non-formal educators since its introduction in Kentucky;
- 95,872 students potentially have or will receive instruction relating to agriculture and the environment from teachers, student teachers and non-formal educators;
- In 2002 KAEC began student teacher programs with Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Campbellsville University, Murray State University and University of Louisville. These venues have allowed us to train approximately 676 student teachers to date. This workshop format has been so successful several workshops are planned for 2004;
- KAEC uses the national curriculum Project Food, Land and People to enhance program content and to give workshop participants lessons ready to use in their classrooms;
- The Mobile Science Activity Center visits approximately 40 schools per year and stays 2-4 days per school to work with students. Approximately 15,300 students are reached per year;

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New FLP facilitators added to the list

On October 23 and 24 nine new people were trained in a joint WET/FLP (Water Education for Teachers/Food, Land & People) facilitator workshop at the UK Arboretum in Lexington. The two-day workshop covered Project WET and Project FLP activities, materials, and specific information on conducting workshops for other educators. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in an FLP workshop, please feel free to contact Rayetta Boone by phone at (502) 564-4696 or by e-mail at rayetta.boone@kyagr.com or one of the following new facilitators. For a complete list of FLP facilitators, visit our Web site at www.kyagr.com.

Whitney Brewer
Scott Co. Conservation District
401 Washington Street
Georgetown, KY 40324
502/863-2466 x 3
wbrewer@ky.usda.gov

Francine Sloan
Saffell Street Elementary School
210 Saffell Street
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
502/839-3565
fsloan@anderson.k12.ky.us

Julie Jones
Saffell Street Elementary School
210 Saffell Street
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
502/839-3565
jjones@anderson.k12.ky.us

Ernie Ferguson
Hacker Elementary
84 Hooker Road
Manchester, KY 40962
606/598-3338
eferguson@clay.k12.ky.us or
erniewferguson@aol.com

Kelly Shouse
Division of Conservation
Department of Natural Resources
663 Teton Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601
502/564-3080
Kelly.shouse@mail.state.ky.us



New FLP Facilitators from left: front row - Traci Tackett, Francine Sloan, Nancy Deustch and Ernie Ferguson; back row - Whitney Brewer, Elizabeth Wisman, Julie Jones, Matt Michaud and Kelly Shouse.

Elizabeth Wisman
Centre College
600 W. Walnut St.
Danville, KY 40422
859/417-0082
ewism00@centre.edu

Nancy Deustch
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
4200 Gardiner View Ave.
Louisville, KY 40213
502/966-3706
nancygail@markerman.com

Matt Michaud
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
4200 Gardiner View Ave.
Louisville, KY 40213
502/473-0055
mattmichaud@iglou.com

Traci Tackett
Bardstown City Schools
420 N. 5th Street
Bardstown, KY 40004
502/331-8801
ttackett@btown.k12.ky.us



WorldAtlas.com

An atlas of maps, flags, geography facts and more on most every destination on the planet. This site offers a travel related "Book of the Week", populations and sizes of continents, the latest currency conversion rates, current time and date anywhere, any body of water, latitudes and longitudes, clip art and more! For further information visit www.worldatlas.com.

Landscapes for Learning Award

Fine Gardening magazine and the National Gardening Association are pleased to announce the second annual Landscapes for Learning Awards for youth gardens. Applicants should demonstrate a child-centered plan in which youngsters are engaged in the design process. Ten winning programs will receive a host of gardening resources and a \$250 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids Store. Application deadline is March 1, 2004. To learn more and download an application go to <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>.

Gee Whiz!

Some things about agriculture kids just want to know . . . and Gee Whiz in Agriculture© is a fun and exciting way to teach them!

Gee Whiz in Agriculture is a series of 11 fact-filled videos that take viewers on journeys to farms, factories, fields, forests and even to the future!

Written teacher guides and student activity sheets for each program help everyone get the most out of the experience.

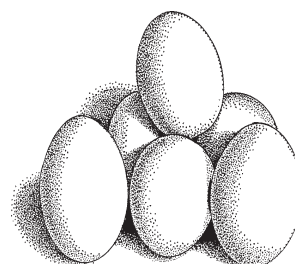
Gee Whiz in Agriculture has taught students across the U.S. about the complexity and importance of the industry that provides us with food, fiber, and exports to fuel the national economy. Hundreds of thousands of students who have seen the series love it, and we think you will, too. Because, Gee Whiz, there are lots of things kids want to know. Visit on the Web <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/dl/geewhiz/>, or call 1-888-923-8675. Gee Whiz in Agriculture is a cooperative effort of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky State University, and Kentucky Educational Television.

New Grant: Gardens for Schools from VIVA!

VIVA!, a supplier of herb and vegetable plants available in Home Depot stores nationwide, announces its VIVA! Garden for Schools Program. Its goal is to introduce children to gardening, improve nutrition and health through horticulture, and open the door to the great experiences that arise when kids interact with nature. Applications for both the VIVA! School Garden Contest and VIVA! Plant Donation Program are currently available by visiting www.vivagarden.com/garden/. Deadline for entries is May 28, 2004.

Did You Know?

A hen requires 24 to 26 hours to produce an egg. Thirty minutes later, she starts all over again.



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- KAEC continues to work with the Lexington Herald-Leader Newspaper in Education program to provide tabloids focusing on agriculture for teachers to use in their classrooms;
- KAEC would like to expand the Mobile Science Activity Center from one unit to two units. Currently the need is so great the Activity Center is booked through 2004. If you would like to schedule the Activity Center, please contact Rayetta Boone at (502) 564-4696 for a possible available date.

KAEC is administered by the Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. For more information, go to www.kyagr.com.

The Corn is in the Can! Every major non-diet soft drink is sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup. A bushel of corn produces enough corn sweetener to sweeten 413 cans of soda pop. High-fructose corn syrup is the leading food use of corn.



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- By calling (502) 564-6676, ext. 231; or
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KAEC Notes

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education

500 Mero Street, 7th Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

**Don't
Forget!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 6
KAEC Workshop
Murray State University
- 8-9
KAEC Workshop
University of Louisville
- 28
AG EXPO
Owensboro, KY

FEBRUARY

- 10
KAEC Workshop
Campbellsville University

MARCH

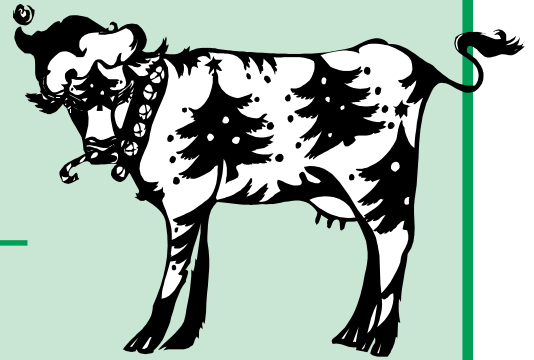
- 3-4
KAEC Workshop
Eastern KY University
- 14-20
National Agriculture Week

MAY

- 7-9
KAEC Workshop
Murray State University
- 22-23
**State Environthon
Competition**
Louisville

JUNE

- 5-6
KAEC Workshop
Murray State University
- 23-26 **AITC National
Conference**
Albuquerque, NM
- 29-30 **KY Farm Bureau
Teacher Conference**
Louisville



Happy
Holidays!

KAEC NOTES is a publication of Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom, Inc., P.O. Box 814, Frankfort, KY 40602-0814. For more information on KAEC contact: Rayetta Boone, Program Coordinator, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 500 Mero Street, 7th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone: (502) 564-4696. Fax: (502) 564-6527. E-mail: rayetta.boone@kyagr.com. Editor & Designer: Teresa Laudermilk.

KAEC
P. O. Box 814
Frankfort, KY 40602-0814